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HPSCI
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OLC RECORD COPY

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Office of Legislative Counsel

OLC 78-0445/b
8 Sept 1978

Mr. Thomas K. Latimer, Staff Director
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Tom:

As discussed during our phone conversation on 7 September 1978, I am forwarding to you a sanitized copy of the comments on Book V, of the Senate Select Committee's final report entitled: The Investigation of the Assassination of President Kennedy: Performance of the Intelligence Agencies. As I said to you, this report has been made available to the House Select Committee on Assassinations and it is possible that they might make use of it during the open hearings that are currently going on. Further, as you and I discussed, although this paper has been sanitized, it warrants careful treatment to avoid being misunderstood or misused.

I would appreciate your returning it when you have finished reviewing it.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Assistant Legislative Counsel

Enclosure

Distribution:

Original - Addressee
1 - OLC Subject
1 - OLC Chrono
OLC:MMP:mao (8 Sept 78)

*Returned [initials] Sanitized version
of I on 16 April 80*

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cyth sent
77-0090

Comments on Book V, SSC Final Report,
The Investigation of the Assassination
of President Kennedy: Performance of
the Intelligence Agencies

Review of inadequacies. Comments on Book V

Sanitized
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Approved For Release 2004/08/30 : CIA-RDP81M00980R003000110028-7

OLC 78-2749
8 August 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel
FROM : S. D. Breckinridge
SUBJECT : 1977 CIA Task Force Report on Book V,
SSC Final Report (Church Committee)

1. In 1976, the Church Committee issued Book V of its series of final reports, with the title The Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: Performance of the Intelligence Agencies. In essence, it attempted to develop a case showing both derelictions and possibly suppression of evidence, by the intelligence agencies during the Warren Commission inquiry.

2. In the fall of 1976 an Agency task force was formed under the chairmanship of the undersigned, undertaking to do a detailed review of Agency records that may bear on the issues treated in Book V of the Church Committee report. A copy of the final result of that is attached.

3. The HSCA has seen the Task Force report, both in sanitized and unsanitized form. At least some of its statements are likely to appear in selected form in the final report of the HSCA. Neither one of our oversight committees (SSCI or HPSCI) has seen the report in any form (unsanitized or sanitized).

4. Given the critical approach we have come to expect from HSCA, it may be worth considering at this time releasing a copy of the sanitized report to the two oversight committees in order for them to have some understanding of some of the issues that are to be expected in the period ahead.

Attachment:
As stated

I agree

S. D. Breckinridge

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9 August 1978

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MEMORANDUM FOR:



FROM : S. D. Breckinridge
Principal Coordinator/HSCA

SUBJECT : 1977 Task Force Report on Book V of
Church Committee Report

1. Attached is one copy each, with copy of correspondence from me to the Legislative Counsel, concerning release of a sanitized copy of the 1977 Task Force Report, commenting on Book V of the Church Committee Final Report. It had been felt in the past more desirable to not make this available to our two oversight committees, primarily because the SSCI is somewhat of a lineal descendant of the Church Committee. It is noted that HSCA has seen the Report in both sanitized and unsanitized versions; it may well be cited in the final HSCA Report.

2. Given the present environment, with pending criticisms of CIA's performance in the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, many of the lines of discussion in the 1977 Task Force Report have current relevance. Although portions of the 1977 Task Force Report have been sanitized, much of the discussion should be meaningful to our oversight committees, which may soon be hearing some rather strong assertions of past derelictions by the Agency in this same field. To the extent that past criticisms are suspect, it may have a tempering influence on reactions to current criticisms of a similar nature.

3. It is requested that you review the report for transmittal to your respective oversight committees (SSCI and HPSCI). Please note Fred Hitz's reaction to my proposal. I did not convey to him past reservations on the point, and you may wish to do so.

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S. D. Breckinridge

Attachments:
As stated

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Office of Legislative Counsel

8 September 1978

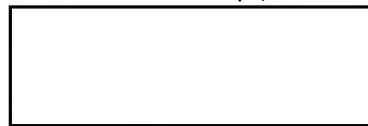
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Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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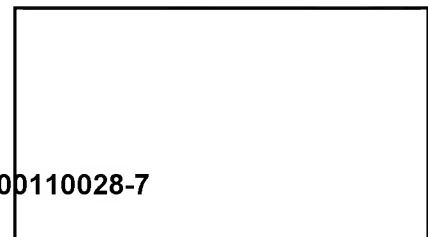
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Assistant Legislative Counsel

Enclosure

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